

the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Arnold White & Durkee Deposit Account No. 01-2508/11867.0003.NPUS00.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

### **I. AMENDMENTS**

Please make the following amendments:

#### **A. In the claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) A distribution system for transferring a plurality of items from a distribution center to a customer, said distribution system comprising:  
  
a delivery device capable of identifying said items and capable of maintaining a delivery record of said transfer of said items; and  
  
a retail device capable of identifying said items and capable of maintaining a receipt record of said transfer of said items.
2. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device upon identifying said item displaying an item description on a display screen.
3. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device is a portable computer.
4. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device includes a barcode scanner to identify said items.
5. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device includes a data entry apparatus to enter transfer information into said delivery record.
6. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 6 wherein said transfer information is an electronically captured signature.
7. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said delivery device is further

capable of storing a driver manifest record, said driver manifest record containing a listing of said items and a status of said items.

8. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 4 wherein said driver manifest record further contains a listing of a second customer and a second plurality of items to be transferred to said second customer.

9. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating an ordering record of a plurality of items by identifying a quantity of said item to order from said distribution center.

10. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating an inventory record by identifying said items within a store.

11. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating a price change record by identifying said item and saving a price change associated with said item.

12. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating a returns record by identifying a return item to return to said distribution center.

13. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 wherein said retail device is further capable of creating a sticker request record by identifying a sticker item in need of a sticker to accompany said sticker item.

14. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 1 further including a distribution center computer capable of communicating with said delivery device.

15. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 14 wherein said delivery device transfers said delivery record to said distribution center computer.

16. (Withdrawn) The distribution system of claim 14 wherein said retail device is capable of communicating with said distribution center computer.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing a plurality of items to a customer

comprising the steps of:

placing said items destined for said customer into a shipping unit;

placing a label on said shipping unit, said label having a unique identifier;

creating a shipment record identifying said shipping unit by said identifier and listing said items within said ~~shipment~~ shipping unit, the shipment record associating the identifier with the items within the shipping unit;

sending said ~~shipment~~ shipping record to said customer;

delivering said shipping unit to said customer;

receiving said shipping unit by said customer; and

identifying said shipping unit by said customer using said shipment record, said identifying by electronically reading said identifier on said label.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further including verifying contents of said shipping unit using said listing of said items within said container in said ~~shipment~~ shipping record.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 further including electronically recording any discrepancy between said contents of said shipping unit and said listing in said ~~shipment~~ shipping record.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 further including creating a delivery record of said delivery, said delivery record created by electronically reading said identifier.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 further including creating a receipt record

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of said receipt of said shipping unit, said receipt record created by identifying said shipping unit and listing any differences between said items listed on said shipment record and said items within said container.

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22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said unique identifier is a barcode.
23. (Original) The method of claim 17 further including storing said shipment record on a portable computer.
24. (Original) The method of claim 17 further including electronically capturing a signature confirming delivery of said shipping unit to said customer.
25. (Original) The method of claim 17 further including electronically recording a time of delivery of said shipping unit to said customer.
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26. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing a plurality of items from a warehouse to a remote site comprising the steps of:  
creating an electronic shipment record of said items to be delivered to said remote site,  
said shipment record listing a shipping quantity of each of said items;  
sending the shipment record to said remote site;  
delivering said items at said remote site; and  
creating an electronic delivery record, using said shipment record, of said items delivered at said remote site, [ ] said delivery record listing a delivered quantity of each of said items and identifying any differences between said shipping quantity and said delivered quantity.
27. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of using said identifier on said label to ascertain electronically the location of said shipping unit.
28. (New) The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

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providing delivery information for said shipping unit to a delivery device from a distribution center computer system;

loading said shipping unit into a delivery vehicle; and

verifying that said shipping unit has been properly loaded into said delivery vehicle by electronically reading said identifier on said label with said delivery device.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of:  
creating a delivery record by electronically reading said identifier on said label after said delivering of said shipping unit to said customer.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:  
uploading said delivery record to said distribution center computer system.

31. (New) The method of claim 18 wherein the step of sending said shipment record to said customer comprises downloading by said customer of said shipment record from a distribution center computer system.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein the step of verifying said contents of said shipping unit comprises electronically reading said identifier on said label and electronically comparing said reading of said identifier on said label to said shipment record.

33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said shipment record is created prior to said delivering of said shipping unit to said customer.

34. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of identifying said shipping unit further comprises identifying said shipping unit and the items therein by said customer using said shipment record.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising:  
verifying the contents of the shipping unit by electronically reading a second identifier on

at least one item, the second identifier uniquely identifying the item.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of verifying further includes generating a warning if any discrepancy exists between the items to be delivered and the delivered items.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the step of delivering further includes verifying that the items being delivered to the customer correspond to the items delivered to the customer, prior to the receiving by the customer.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of verifying further includes verifying the contents of the shipping unit by electronically reading a second identifier on at least one item, the second identifier uniquely identifying the item.

39. (New) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of inputting orders for said items into a distribution center computer system, wherein said shipment record is created from order information entered into said distribution center computer system prior to said delivery of said items to said remote site.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 further comprising the step of providing said electronic delivery record to said distribution center computer system.

41. (New) A method for distributing a plurality of items to a customer comprising the steps of:

submitting an order to a distribution center by the customer for the items to be delivered;

placing the ordered items into a container, each item having an item identifier to uniquely identify each item;

placing a label on the container, the label having a unique container identifier;

delivering the container to the customer;

sending shipment and invoice data containing the items shipped and ordered to the customer;

receiving the container by said customer;

identifying the delivered container, and the items in the container by using the shipment and invoice data, by the customer electronically reading the container identifier on the label of the container;

determining the items received by identifying the items in the container by electronically reading the item identifier on each item; and,

reconciling the items received with the items on the shipment and invoice data.

42. (New) The method of 41 further comprising:

generating a warning signal if a discrepancy exists between the items delivered and the items ordered.

43. (New) The method of claim 42 further including electronically recording any discrepancy between the items shipped in the container and the items ordered contained on the shipment and invoice data.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 further including creating a delivery record of the delivery, the delivery record created by electronically reading container identifier.

45. (New) The method of claim 44 wherein each of the container identifier and the item identifier is a barcode.

46. (New) The method of claim 45 further including electronically recording a time of delivery of the container to the customer.

47. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of submitting an order further comprises: